

Sp. 2. PHÆNICOTHTRAUPIS RUBICOIDES (Lafr.).

*Saltator rubicoides*, Lafr. Rev. Zool. 1844, p. 41.

*Phænicothraupis rubicoides*, Cab. M. H. p. 24.

*Hab.* in Mexico (Lafr.), Guatemala.

Sp. 3. PHÆNICOTHTRAUPIS GUTTURALIS, Sclater.

*P. niger*: vertice cristato cum gutture medio coccineis: rostro pedibusque nigris.

Long. tota 7·25; alæ 3·8; caudæ 3·2 (poll. angl.).

*Hab.* in Nova Grenada (?).

The plumage is of a nearly uniform brown-black; bill and feet deep black; an elongated vertical crest and the middle of the throat crimson: the nape of the neck and upper breast are slightly tinged with the crimson colour. The extreme tips of some of the crest feathers are black; the chin and sides of the throat are black.

49 Pall Mall, Nov. 24, 1853.

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III.—*Descriptions of new or little-known species of Reptiles collected in Ceylon.* By E. F. KELAART, M.D., F.L.S. &c.

Order SAURIA.

Tribe *Geissosaura*.

Fam. ACONTIADÆ.

Genus NESSIA, Gray.

*Nessia Burtoni* (?), Gray.

Dark rufous brown above, and spotted longitudinally with darker brown spots; dark gray beneath, clouded and indistinctly spotted. Tail cylindrical, rounded at the end, and coloured and spotted like the body. Limbs four, very small, each with three subequal toes, clawed.

Length  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

*Hab.* Allagalla, 3000 ft., and Kaduganava, 2500 ft.

If our identification is correct, it would appear probable that the only specimen in Europe, found in the Army Medical Officers' Museum at Fort Pitt, was sent from Ceylon. The specimen was named after Staff Surgeon Burton, who was the Curator of the Museum when Dr. Gray visited that establishment.

## Genus ACONTIAS, Cuvier.

*Acontias Layardi*, n. s., nobis.

Light olive, and spotted longitudinally with brown spots, paler beneath.

Length of young 4 inches.

*Hab.* Soil of the Cinnamon gardens of Colombo.

The form of this reptile is distinguished from that of *Nessia*, above described, by the absence of limbs; in other respects it is very like the outline characters of *Nessia*. Mr. Layard procured us the specimens (apparently young) of this curious lizard.

Mr. Blyth writes, that he has described an allied genus from Rangoon by the name of *Ophiseps*.

## Fam. UROPELTIDÆ.

*Rough-tails. Dapat-naya*, Sing.

This curiously formed family of reptiles is known in the island as *Dapat-nayas*, or Double-headed Snakes. The natives consider them poisonous, but our experience of their habits leads us believe that they are perfectly harmless, and that they are timid creatures, seldom making their appearance above ground, living chiefly in ant-hills or dung-hills, sometimes also several feet deep in rich loamy soil. They feed on ants, small earthworms, and larvæ of insects.

It appears from Dr. Gray's Catalogue, that in the museums of Europe there are only three species, and of these three only one is from Ceylon, viz. *Siluboura Ceylonicus*, many specimens of which we have found in the Kandyan Hills since our work on the Fauna of Ceylon was published. We have also, since the publication of that work, collected three other species, making in all five distinct, undescribed or new species of Rough-tails (*Uropeltidæ*) in the island of Ceylon, which we shall now describe in a connected form.

Dr. Gray subdivides the family into three groups, and we have added a fourth, to admit of two species, one of which only we have described in the 'Prodromus.'

## Genus RHINOPHIS, Hempr.

*Rhinophis Blythii*, n. s., nobis.

Dark yellowish brown above, with darker brown spots on the anterior third of scales; paler beneath. Rostrum yellow. Sides of nape and neck waved with angular marks of a yellowish hue; yellow spots on each side of vent. Tail thick, slightly truncated, conical; upper part near termination has a small subtriangular

nearly smooth shield, lower surface covered with broad scales. Vent-shields 1-2.

Length 16 inches; circumference of the middle of body  $1\frac{5}{10}$  inch; tail and neck rather thicker.

*Hab.* Mountains of Ceylon. Three specimens, found 3 or 4 feet below the surface soil of coffee plantations.

Genus *UROPELTIS* (part), Cuvier.

Tail obliquely truncated, flattish, and covered with a flat roundish radiating granular shield, lower edge rounded, the under side of tail with six series of small scales. Gray.

*Uropeltis Saffragamus*, n. s., nobis.

Head dark olive-brown, the rest of the upper surface of a blackish brown colour, with bluish bronze reflections; beneath white; a pale white spot on each side of neck near the head. Tail deeply truncated and nearly covered with a large flat circular blackish granular shield, white and rounded beneath, and lower part covered with five series of small scales, the central series broader than the lateral ones. Vent-shields 1-2. The neck and fore part of the body much thicker.

Length 9 inches.

*Hab.* District of Saffragam, near Adam's Peak.

The only specimen of this species which we have as yet seen is one sent to us by Mr. Barnes De Zilva from Ratnapoora.

*Uropeltis grandis*, n. s., nobis.

Above dark brown with a bluish metallic lustre, anterior part of each scale with a blackish spot; beneath of a pale yellow colour, spotted brown on the anterior part of scale. Head of a light olive-brown colour. Tail short, abruptly truncated, the truncated surface entirely covered with a large circular granular shield. Vent-scales 1-2.

Total length superiorly, 1 foot 7 inches; inferiorly, 1 foot 8 inches. Tail-shield nearly the size of a shilling-piece. Head 8-10 inches in length. Greatest circumference  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches near the neck.

*Hab.* Southern Province.

The only specimen we have seen of this very large Rough-tail is one procured by Mr. Balkhuysen of the Colonial Medical Service, from Kerinday near Matura.

*Uropeltis pardalis*, n. s., nobis.

Head small, dark olive; upper parts black with beautiful bluish bronze reflections, irregularly spotted white; beneath yel-

lowish white, marked with small and larger black spots of various shapes; some pale-yellow. These black spots occupy more than one scale, generally two or three contiguous scales, and they are placed without order in various directions. Chin and throat unimaculate. Tail very short, obliquely truncated and covered with a large flat orbicular granular shield.

Length  $6\frac{1}{4}$  inches; circumference  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch.

*Hab.* Matura, Southern Province.

#### Genus DAPATNAYA, n. g.

Tail obliquely truncated, upper part and tip covered with a large semi-conical granular shield. Vent-shields 1-2.

#### *Dapatnaya Lankadivana*, n. s., nobis.

Above dark brown, beneath paler. Scales with pale margins. Head yellowish in some. Rostrum yellow. Shield of tail sloping down to the lower surface. Vent-scales yellow; in some the spot extends beyond the vent.

Length from 1 to 2 feet. Thickness nearly the same throughout, about 1 inch.

*Hab.* Common at Trincomalie and in the Kandyan Province. Found 2 or 3 feet under ground, and in ant-hills. The young is of a dark olive-brown colour.

#### *Dapatnaya Trevelyanii*, n. s., nobis.

Black above, margin of scales pale; white beneath, with longitudinal series of black spots, formed of central spots on each scale; a line of triangular white spots, with their apices directed upwards, along each side. Vent white. A white line rising from this spot runs over the tail, and another whitish line extends forwards from the vent for about  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch. Tail short, and nearly covered with a white semi-conical granular shield; tip ridged, a little produced.

Length from 12 to 18 inches; nearly of the same thickness throughout, about 1 inch.

*Hab.* Kandyan Hills, 3 or 4 feet under ground, and in the soil near the roots of coffee trees and cane.

Some of the young are of a bluish colour, others are spotted on the back.

Tribe *Nyctisaura*.

Fam. GECKOTIDÆ.

Genus BOLTALIA.

#### *Boltalia sublævis*, Gray.

Above dark rufous brown; beneath sulphureous yellow, some-



times clouded with black. Back granular, with two or more longitudinal lines of larger granules on each side. Scales of chin large. Tail armed with adpressed spines in rings. Femoral pores in male only, from sixteen to twenty.

Length  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

*Hab.* The Central and Southern Provinces.

This Gecko we obtained in great abundance in Galle; we have also seen a few at Kaduganava after the publication of the 'Prodromus.' It is rarely seen on the walls of houses, generally on trees and on the roofs of houses. The rufous brown colour changes at times into a dark gray mottled with black. When immersed in spirits the rufous brown colour is entirely lost.

This Gecko has been mistaken for *Hemidactylus Leschenaultii*, and also for a large variety of *H. frenatus*, but the clawless compressed last joint of the thumb will distinguish this lizard from others.

From *Peripia Peronii* it is sufficiently removed by its granular back and armed tail. This lizard cannot be confounded with *Hemidactylus Coctæi*; it has very little resemblance to it, and the thumb of *H. Coctæi* is clawed. (Vide Prodromus Faunæ Zeylanicæ.)

#### Genus HEMIDACTYLUS, Cuvier.

*Hemidactylus Pieresii*, n. s., nobis.

This new species of Gecko, described in 'Prod. Faunæ Zeylanicæ,' p. 159, is found in the Kandia Hills, and also in the southern parts of the island. It is recognised by Mr. Blyth as a distinct species from *H. trihedrus*.

#### Genus GYMNODACTYLUS, Gray.

*Gymnodactylus Kandianus*, n. s., nobis.

(Prod. F. Zeylanicæ, fol. 186.)

This diurnal Gecko is considered by Mr. Blyth to be identical with Gray's *Goniodactylus Timorensis*; but we are still of opinion that it is a distinct species, more particularly as *Goniodactylus Timorensis* is not described as bearing spines on the tail or back. There are also, in the male of our species, a small curved translucent elevation on each thigh with two or three glandular bodies or pores. Dr. Gray has now with him specimens from Ceylon, which we have sent him by Mr. E. Layard.

Order BATRACHIA.

Suborder 1. *Salientia*.

Fam. RANIDÆ. Frogs.

Genus RANA, Linn.

*Rana Kandiana*, n. s., nobis.

Beautiful grass-green above; beneath orange-red, inside of limbs slightly vermiculated with yellow. Skin of upper parts rough, coriaceous; a white granular ridge on each side of the back.

Length  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

*Hab.* Kaduganava, Kandyan Province.

We have only seen two specimens of this rare frog.

Fam. HYLIDÆ. Tree Frogs.

Genus LIMNODYTES, Dum. et Bib.

*Limnodytes mutabilis*, n. s., nobis.

Upper parts very changeable; generally of a bright green above and yellow beneath, a red line on the outer edge of limbs; sometimes of a dark chestnut on the upper parts, and variegated with yellow and green on the sides and limbs; of a more slender form than the common tree frogs, *Polypedates cruciger* and *P. leucomystax*. About 2 inches long.

*Hab.* Cinnamon gardens, Cotta, near Colombo.

If not mistaken, we have also seen this elegant frog at Newera Ellia. In spirits the colours fade into a pale leaden hue; the red streak on the limbs disappears last.

*Limnodytes maculata*, n. s., nobis.

Brown, spotted and streaked with black or dark brown; paler beneath, seldom spotted. About  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inch long.

*Hab.* Galle, Southern Province.

We believe this species to be generally distributed, but have before mistaken it for the young of *Polypedates leucomystax*.

Genus EUGYSTOMA, Gray.

*Eugystoma cinnamomea*, n. s., nobis.

Cinnamon-red, spotted black. Limbs also spotted. Belly whitish.

Length (young)  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inch.

*Hab.* Colombo, Western Province.